

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 1, 3-9, 11-14 and 19-20 were previously allowed in a Notice of Allowance dated July 5, 2006.

Claims 1, 9, 19 and 20 were amended by the Examiner in an Examiner's Amendment that accompanied the Notice of Allowance dated July 5, 2006 (a copy of which is attached as Exhibit A).

Upon reviewing the Examiner's amendment that accompanied the Notice of Allowance, it was noted that the term "surface" in line 10 of Claim 1 had not been replaced with the term "corner" to provide antecedent basis for the term "corner" used in line 18 of Claim 1. Upon contacting the Examiner, he then issued a supplemental Examiner's Amendment dated July 24, 2006 (a copy of which is attached as Exhibit B) to correct this error.

Upon reviewing the supplemental Examiner's amendment, it was noted that the term "surface" was cancelled in the last line of Claim 20 but it was not replaced with the word "corner." Upon contacting the Examiner about this, he then issued a second supplemental Examiner's Amendment dated August 23, 2006 (a copy of which is attached as Exhibit C) to correct this error.

Upon reviewing the second supplemental Examiner's Amendment, it was noted that the amendment made in Claim 1, line 10 to replace the word "surface" with "corner" was omitted so that line 10 still contains the word "surface." Although Applicants have contacted the Examiner about this and have requested a third supplemental Examiner's Amendment, no third supplemental Examiner's Amendment has been issued to correct this. In view of the imminent deadline for paying the issue fee, Applicants have submitted this Amendment Under 37 CFR §1.312 to correct this error in Claim 1.

Application No. 10/637,139

Amendment Under 37 CFR §1.312 dated September 29, 2006

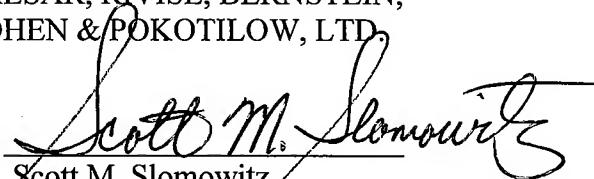
Thus, for all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that, as per the amendment to Claim 1, Claims 1, 3-9, 11-14 and 19-20 are now in condition for allowance.

The Applicants have not paid the issue fee at the time of the filing of this Amendment after Allowance and, as such, this Amendment is being filed under 37 CFR §1.312.

Respectfully submitted,

CAESAR, RIVISE, BERNSTEIN,
COHEN & POKOTILOW, LTD.

By



Scott M. Slomowitz
Registration No. 39,032
Customer No. 03000
(215) 567-2010
Attorney for Applicants

September 29, 2006

Please charge or credit our
Account No. 03-0075 as necessary
to effect entry and/or ensure
consideration of this submission.

EXHIBIT A

Notice of Allowance Dated July 5, 2006



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

3000 7590 07/05/2006
CAESAR, RIVISE, BERNSTEIN,
COHEN & POKOTILOW, LTD.
11TH FLOOR, SEVEN PENN CENTER
1635 MARKET STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-2212

DOCKETED
JUL 10 2006
C.F.J.

CAESAR, RIVISE, BERNSTEIN
COHEN & POKOTILOW, LTD.
EXAMINER

DUNWOODY, AARON M

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3679

DATE MAILED: 07/05/2006

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/637,139	08/08/2003	Charles J. Longacre	S1097/20001	3431

TITLE OF INVENTION: JOINT RESTRAINT ASSEMBLY

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	YES	\$700	\$0	\$700	10/05/2006

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE REFLECTS A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE APPLIED IN THIS APPLICATION. THE PTOL-85B (OR AN EQUIVALENT) MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN THIS PERIOD EVEN IF NO FEE IS DUE OR THE APPLICATION WILL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL should be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Even if the fee(s) have already been paid, Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.



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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/637,139	08/08/2003	Charles J. Longacre	S1097/20001	3431
3000	7590	07/05/2006	EXAMINER	
CAESAR, RIVISE, BERNSTEIN, COHEN & POKOTILOW, LTD. 11TH FLOOR, SEVEN PENN CENTER 1635 MARKET STREET PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-2212			DUNWOODY, AARON M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3679	
DATE MAILED: 07/05/2006				

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 0 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 0 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/637,139	LONGACRE ET AL.
	Examiner Aaron M. Dunwoody	Art Unit 3679

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to appeal brief filed 4/20/2006.

2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-9, 11-14, 19 and 20.

3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some* c) None of the:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- 1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
- 4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
- 5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
- 7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- 8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- 9. Other _____

Aaron Dunwoody
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3679

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Scott M Slomowitz on 6/23/2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1. (Amended) A joint restraint assembly for connecting pipe ends together, or to other objects, by gripping the outer surface of ~~the a~~ pipe, the joint restraint assembly comprising:

a body encircling the pipe, with said body having a plurality of cavities adjacent the pipe and at least one set of a corresponding plurality of threaded bores disposed through said body, each threaded bore of said at least one set of a corresponding plurality of threaded bores being in communication with a respective cavity; and

a threaded bolt extending through each of said threaded bores;

a segment disposed within each of said cavities in said body, said segment comprising a first portion that contacts a surface of said cavity and a second portion that penetrates the outer surface of the pipe[[.]];

wherein said threaded bolt displaces said segment so that said second portion initially engages the outer surface of the pipe; and

Art Unit: 3679

wherein as said segment pivoting about said first portion, which maintains contact with said surface of said cavity throughout increasing mechanical or internal pressure loading applied to the pipe increases pipe pull-out forces, said segment pivots about said first portion while said segment loses contact with said threaded bolt, and whereby said segment maintains contact with the corner of the cavity while for driving said second portion deeper into the outer surface of the pipe in proportion to the applied mechanical or internal pressure loading, said segment resisting pipe pull-out in proportion to the increased mechanical or internal pressure loading applied to the pipe.

Claim 2. (Canceled).

Claim 9. (Amended) A joint restraint assembly for connecting pipe ends together, or to other objects, by gripping the outer surface of ~~the~~ a pipe, the joint restraint assembly comprising:

a body encircling the pipe, with said body having a plurality of cavities adjacent the pipe and at least one set of a corresponding plurality of threaded bores disposed through said body, each threaded bore of said at least one set of a corresponding plurality of threaded bores being in communication with a respective cavity;

a threaded bolt extending through each of said threaded bores;

a segment disposed within each of said cavities in said body, said segment comprising a first portion that contacts a ~~surface~~ corner of said cavity and a cam surface

Art Unit: 3679

that engages and rotates against, but does not substantially penetrate, the outer surface of the pipe[[],];

wherein said threaded bolt displaces said segment so that said cam surface initially engages the outer surface of the pipe; and

wherein as said segment pivoting about said first portion, which maintains contact with said surface of said cavity throughout increasing mechanical or internal pressure loading applied to the pipe increases pipe pull-out forces, so that said segment pivots about said first portion and said cam surface rotates against the outer surface of the pipe, while said segment loses contact with said threaded bolt, and said segment maintains contact with said corner of the cavity, in proportion to the applied mechanical or internal pressure loading, said segment resisting pipe pull-out in proportion to the increased mechanical loading or internal pipe pressure.

Claim 10. (Canceled).

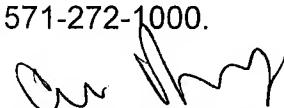
Claim 19. (Amended) The joint restraint assembly of Claim 4 wherein said first portion comprises a segment corner opposite said at least one edge, said segment corner contacting said surface corner of said cavity.

Claim 20. (Amended) The joint restraint assembly of Claim 9 wherein said first portion comprises a segment corner opposite said cam surface, said segment corner contacting said surface of said cavity.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron M. Dunwoody whose telephone number is 571-272-7080. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Aaron M Dunwoody
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3679

.amd

EXHIBIT B

**Supplemental Examiner's Amendment Dated July 24, 2006
(Supplemental Notice of Allowability)**



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/637,139	08/08/2003	Charles J. Longacre	S1097/20001	3431

3000 7590 07/24/2006
CAESAR, RIVISE, BERNSTEIN,
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CAESAR, RIVISE, BERNSTEIN
COHEN & POKOTILOW, LTD.

EXAMINER	
DUNWOODY, AARON M	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3679	

DATE MAILED: 07/24/2006



Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Supplemental
Notice of Allowability**

Application No.	Applicant(s)	
10/637,139	LONGACRE ET AL.	
Examiner	Art Unit	
Aaron M. Dunwoody	3679	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to appeal brief filed 4/20/2006.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-9,11-14,19 and 20.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

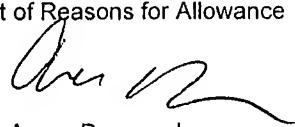
Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
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5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.


 Aaron Dunwoody
 Primary Examiner
 Art Unit 3679

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

It has been brought to the attention of the Examiner that the Examiner's Amendment mailed 7/5/2006 contained minor errors that resulted in the current Examiner's Amendment to correct the minor errors.

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Scott M Slomowitz on 7/14/2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1. (Amended) A joint restraint assembly for connecting pipe ends together, or to other objects, by gripping the outer surface of the a pipe, the joint restraint assembly comprising:

a body encircling the pipe, with said body having a plurality of cavities adjacent the pipe and at least one set of a corresponding plurality of threaded bores disposed through said body, each threaded bore of said at least one set of a corresponding plurality of threaded bores being in communication with a respective cavity; and

a threaded bolt extending through each of said threaded bores;

a segment disposed within each of said cavities in said body, said segment comprising a first portion that contacts a surface corner of said cavity and a second portion that penetrates the outer surface of the pipe[[,]];

wherein said threaded bolt displaces said segment so that said second portion initially engages the outer surface of the pipe; and

wherein as said segment pivoting about said first portion, which maintains contact with said surface of said cavity throughout increasing mechanical or internal pressure loading applied to the pipe increases pipe pull-out forces, said segment pivots about said first portion while said segment loses contact with said threaded bolt, and whereby said segment maintains contact with the corner of the cavity while for driving said second portion deeper into the outer surface of the pipe in proportion to the applied mechanical or internal pressure loading, said segment resisting pipe pull-out in proportion to the increased mechanical or internal pressure loading applied to the pipe.

Claim 2. (Canceled).

Claim 9. (Amended) A joint restraint assembly for connecting pipe ends together, or to other objects, by gripping the outer surface of ~~the a~~ pipe, the joint restraint assembly comprising:

a body encircling the pipe, with said body having a plurality of cavities adjacent the pipe and at least one set of a corresponding plurality of threaded bores disposed through said body, each threaded bore of said at least one set of a corresponding plurality of threaded bores being in communication with a respective cavity;
a threaded bolt extending through each of said threaded bores;

a segment disposed within each of said cavities in said body, said segment comprising a first portion that contacts a surface corner of said cavity and a cam surface that engages and rotates against, but does not substantially penetrate, the outer surface of the pipe[[,]];:

wherein said threaded bolt displaces said segment so that said cam surface initially engages the outer surface of the pipe; and

wherein as said segment pivoting about said first portion, which maintains contact with said surface of said cavity throughout increasing mechanical or internal pressure loading applied to the pipe increases pipe pull-out forces, so that said segment pivots about said first portion and said cam surface rotates against the outer surface of the pipe, while said segment loses contact with said threaded bolt, and said segment maintains contact with said corner of the cavity, in proportion to the applied mechanical or internal pressure loading, said segment resisting pipe pull-out in proportion to the increased mechanical loading or internal pipe pressure.

Claim 10. (Canceled).

Claim 19. (Amended) The joint restraint assembly of Claim 4 wherein said first portion comprises a segment corner opposite said at least one edge, said segment corner contacting said surface corner of said cavity.

Claim 20. (Amended) The joint restraint assembly of Claim 9 wherein said first portion comprises a segment corner opposite said cam surface, said segment corner contacting said surface of said cavity.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron M. Dunwoody whose telephone number is 571-272-7080. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

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Aaron M Dunwoody
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3679

EXHIBIT C

**Second Supplemental Examiner's Amendment
Dated August 23, 2006
(Supplemental Notice of Allowability)**



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
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Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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CAESAR, RIVISE, BERNSTEIN, COHEN & POKOTILOW, LTD. 11TH FLOOR, SEVEN PENN CENTER 1635 MARKET STREET PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-2212			DUNWOODY, AARON M	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
		3679		

DATE MAILED: 08/23/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Supplemental Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/637,139	LONGACRE ET AL.
	Examiner Aaron M. Dunwoody	Art Unit 3679

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 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
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Aaron Dunwoody
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3679

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Scott M Slomowitz on 7/26/2006.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1. (Amended) A joint restraint assembly for connecting pipe ends together, or to other objects, by gripping the outer surface of ~~the a~~ pipe, the joint restraint assembly comprising:

a body encircling the pipe, with said body having a plurality of cavities adjacent the pipe and at least one set of a corresponding plurality of threaded bores disposed through said body, each threaded bore of said at least one set of a corresponding plurality of threaded bores being in communication with a respective cavity; and

a threaded bolt extending through each of said threaded bores;

a segment disposed within each of said cavities in said body, said segment comprising a first portion that contacts a surface of said cavity and a second portion that penetrates the outer surface of the pipe[.]:

wherein said threaded bolt displaces said segment so that said second portion initially engages the outer surface of the pipe; and

wherein as said segment pivoting about said first portion, which maintains contact with said surface of said cavity throughout increasing mechanical or internal pressure loading applied to the pipe increases pipe pull-out forces, said segment pivots about said first portion while said segment loses contact with said threaded bolt, and whereby said segment maintains contact with the corner of the cavity while for driving said second portion deeper into the outer surface of the pipe in proportion to the applied mechanical or internal pressure loading, said segment resisting pipe pull-out in proportion to the increased mechanical or internal pressure loading applied to the pipe.

Claim 2. (Canceled).

Claim 9. (Amended) A joint restraint assembly for connecting pipe ends together, or to other objects, by gripping the outer surface of ~~the~~ a pipe, the joint restraint assembly comprising:

a body encircling the pipe, with said body having a plurality of cavities adjacent the pipe and at least one set of a corresponding plurality of threaded bores disposed through said body, each threaded bore of said at least one set of a corresponding plurality of threaded bores being in communication with a respective cavity;

a threaded bolt extending through each of said threaded bores;

a segment disposed within each of said cavities in said body, said segment comprising a first portion that contacts a surface corner of said cavity and a cam surface

that engages and rotates against, but does not substantially penetrate, the outer surface of the pipe[[,]];:

wherein said threaded bolt displaces said segment so that said cam surface initially engages the outer surface of the pipe; and

wherein as said segment pivoting about said first portion, which maintains contact with said surface of said cavity throughout increasing mechanical or internal pressure loading applied to the pipe increases pipe pull-out forces, so that said segment pivots about said first portion and said cam surface rotates against the outer surface of the pipe, while said segment loses contact with said threaded bolt, and said segment maintains contact with said corner of the cavity, in proportion to the applied mechanical or internal pressure loading, said segment resisting pipe pull-out in proportion to the increased mechanical loading or internal pipe pressure.

Claim 10. (Canceled).

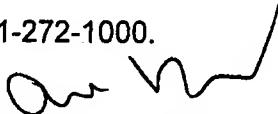
Claim 19. (Amended) The joint restraint assembly of Claim 4 wherein said first portion comprises a segment corner opposite said at least one edge, said segment corner contacting said surface corner of said cavity.

Claim 20. (Amended) The joint restraint assembly of Claim 9 wherein said first portion comprises a segment corner opposite said cam surface, said segment corner contacting said surface corner of said cavity.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Aaron M. Dunwoody whose telephone number is 571-272-7080. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 am - 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Daniel P. Stodola can be reached on 571-272-7087. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


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